

A top-down photograph of a rustic dining table. The central focus is a white ceramic bowl with a ribbed rim, filled with a vibrant orange soup. The soup is garnished with several golden-brown, round dumplings and a dusting of black pepper. The bowl sits on a dark wooden placemat. To the right, a small teal ceramic bowl is filled with dark olives. In the upper right, a bundle of dried herbs, possibly rosemary, is visible. The background shows a wooden table surface and a portion of another white plate with a scalloped edge on the left. The overall lighting is warm and natural, creating a cozy atmosphere.

Food for the Soul

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERIES

September 20, 2020

PRELUDE

Antiphon on "His Left Hand is Under My Head"
Michael Rees, organist

Marcel Dupre

WORDS OF WELCOME AND INVITATION INSTRUCTIONS TO GIVE

Pastor Matthew Johnson, Associate Pastor BUMC

HYMN #154

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

(Verses 1, 2, 4, 6)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Matthew Johnson, Associate Pastor BUMC

WORD IN SONG

Come and Find the Quiet Center
Seth Durbin, Jenna Hessel, Patti Mangis, accompanied by Lynn Pampalone, flute

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Wendy Witt, First UMC West Dundee

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 10: 9-11:18

Drama Team - (See Credits at end for list of participants)

⁹⁻¹³ The next day as the three travelers were approaching the town, Peter went out on the balcony to pray. It was about noon. Peter got hungry and started thinking about lunch. While lunch was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw the skies open up. Something that looked like a huge blanket lowered by ropes at its four corners settled on the ground. Every kind of animal and reptile and bird you could think of was on it. Then a voice came: "Go to it, Peter—kill and eat."

¹⁴ Peter said, "Oh, no, Lord. I've never so much as tasted food that was not kosher."

¹⁵ The voice came a second time: "If God says it's okay, it's okay."

¹⁶ This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the skies.

¹⁷⁻²⁰ As Peter, puzzled, sat there trying to figure out what it all meant, the men sent by Cornelius showed up at Simon's front door. They called in, asking if there was a Simon, also called Peter, staying there. Peter, lost in thought, didn't hear them, so the Spirit whispered to him, "Three men are knocking at the door looking for you. Get down there and go with them. Don't ask any questions. I sent them to get you."

²¹ Peter went down and said to the men, "I think I'm the man you're looking for. What's up?"

²²⁻²³ They said, "Captain Cornelius, a God-fearing man well-known for his fair play—ask any Jew in this part of the country—was commanded by a holy angel to get you and bring you to his house so he could hear what you had to say." Peter invited them in and made them feel at home.

God Plays No Favorites

²³⁻²⁶ The next morning he got up and went with them. Some of his friends from Joppa went along. A day later they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had his relatives and close friends waiting with him. The minute Peter came through the door, Cornelius was up on his feet greeting him—and then down on his face worshipping him! Peter pulled him up and said, "None of that—I'm a man and only a man, no different from you."

²⁷⁻²⁹ Talking things over, they went on into the house, where Cornelius introduced Peter to everyone who had come. Peter addressed them, “You know, I’m sure that this is highly irregular. Jews just don’t do this—visit and relax with people of another race. But God has just shown me that no race is better than any other. So the minute I was sent for, I came, no questions asked. But now I’d like to know why you sent for me.”

³⁰⁻³² Cornelius said, “Four days ago at about this time, midafternoon, I was home praying. Suddenly there was a man right in front of me, flooding the room with light. He said, ‘Cornelius, your daily prayers and neighborly acts have brought you to God’s attention. I want you to send to Joppa to get Simon, the one they call Peter. He’s staying with Simon the Tanner down by the sea.’

³³ “So I did it—I sent for you. And you’ve been good enough to come. And now we’re all here in God’s presence, ready to listen to whatever the Master put in your heart to tell us.”

³⁴⁻³⁶ Peter fairly exploded with his good news: “It’s God’s own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, he’s doing it everywhere, among everyone.

³⁷⁻³⁸ “You know the story of what happened in Judea. It began in Galilee after John preached a total life-change. Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone who was beaten down by the Devil. He was able to do all this because God was with him.

³⁹⁻⁴³ “And we saw it, saw it all, everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem where they killed him, hung him from a cross. But in three days God had him up, alive, and out where he could be seen. Not everyone saw him—he wasn’t put on public display. Witnesses had been carefully handpicked by God beforehand—us! We were the ones, there to eat and drink with him after he came back from the dead. He commissioned us to announce this in public, to bear solemn witness that he is in fact the One whom God destined as Judge of the living and dead. But we’re not alone in this. Our witness that he is the means to forgiveness of sins is backed up by the witness of all the prophets.”

⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶ No sooner were these words out of Peter’s mouth than the Holy Spirit came on the listeners. The believing Jews who had come with Peter couldn’t believe it, couldn’t believe that the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on “outsider” non-Jews, but there it was—they heard them speaking in tongues, heard them praising God.

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁸ Then Peter said, “Do I hear any objections to baptizing these friends with water? They’ve received the Holy Spirit exactly as we did.” Hearing no objections, he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Then they asked Peter to stay on for a few days.

God Has Broken Through

11 ¹⁻³ The news traveled fast and in no time the leaders and friends back in Jerusalem heard about it—heard that the non-Jewish “outsiders” were now “in.” When Peter got back to Jerusalem, some of his old associates, concerned about circumcision, called him on the carpet: “What do you think you’re doing rubbing shoulders with that crowd, eating what is prohibited and ruining our good name?”

⁴⁻⁶ So Peter, starting from the beginning, laid it out for them step-by-step: “Recently I was in the town of Joppa praying. I fell into a trance and saw a vision: Something like a huge blanket, lowered by ropes at its four corners, came down out of heaven and settled on the ground in front of me. Milling around on the blanket were farm animals, wild animals, reptiles, birds—you name it, it was there. Fascinated, I took it all in.

⁷⁻¹⁰ “Then I heard a voice: ‘Go to it, Peter—kill and eat.’ I said, ‘Oh, no, Master. I’ve never so much as tasted food that wasn’t kosher.’ The voice spoke again: ‘If God says it’s okay, it’s okay.’ This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the sky.

¹¹⁻¹⁴ “Just then three men showed up at the house where I was staying, sent from Caesarea to get me. The Spirit told me to go with them, no questions asked. So I went with them, I and six friends, to the man who had sent for me. He told us how he had seen an angel right in his own house, real as his next-door neighbor, saying, ‘Send to Joppa and get Simon, the one they call Peter. He’ll tell you something that will save your life—in fact, you and everyone you care for.’

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ “So I started in, talking. Before I’d spoken half a dozen sentences, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as he did on us the first time. I remembered Jesus’ words: ‘John baptized with water; you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So I ask you: If God gave the same exact gift to them as to us when we believed in the Master Jesus Christ, how could I object to God?”

¹⁸ Hearing it all laid out like that, they quieted down. And then, as it sank in, they started praising God. “It’s really happened! God has broken through to the other nations, opened them up to Life!”

SONG OF RESPONSE

For Everyone Born a Place At the Table

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

SERMON

“ The Food Rules ”

Pastor Chris Winkler, Senior Pastor BUMC

HYMN #393

Spirit of the Living God

(Verses 1, 3, 5)

CHARGE/BENEDICTION

Pastor Chris Winkler, Senior Pastor BUMC

POSTLUDE

Toccata in F Major, BuxWV 157

Dieterich Buxtehude

MUSICIANS:

Michael Rees, Organist
Vocal Ensemble — Seth Durbin, Jenna Hesseln, Patti Mangis
Lynn Pampalone, flute

DRAMA TEAM:

Gail Rossow--Narrator
Clara Davenport--Spirit/Angel
Dennis Rossow--Peter
Dave Snyder--Man
Fred Kocian--Cornelius

Patti Mangis--Co-Director
Linda Snyder--Co-Director
Dave Snyder--Video editing
Music: O God Beyond All Praising, arr. Steven Anderson

Art during drama:

Peter's vision of a sheet with animals, from Acts 10; illustration from Henry Davenport Northrop, "Treasures of the Bible," published 1894. [Retrieved September 16, 2020.] https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Peter%27s_vision_of_the_sheet_with_animals.jpg

Péterfy, László. Angel of the Plains. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57>

Holy Spirit and Fire with Baptismal Font, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56760> [retrieved September 16, 2020]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/42622611981/>.

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